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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Bureau of Community and Environmental Health

The Poles, Inc. Site and Your Child's Safety

This fact sheet offers advice to parents seeking to protect their children from the hazards present at the Poles, Inc. site as well as the Oldtown Log Yard and the nearby railroad. The Poles, Inc. site currently operates as a pole peeling facility. The site accepts shipments of unfinished tree trunks for peeling. The peeled logs, wood chips, and heavy equipment are stored on site until used or shipped to another location. Both pole sites have a high volume of truck and heavy equipment traffic. In the past, Poles, Inc. treated poles with pesticide-based wood preservatives.

In response to site-related health concerns voiced by the community, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), and the Idaho Division of Health, Bureau of Community and Environmental Health (BCEH) conducted investigations of the Poles, Inc. facility. EPA found chemical contamination from the former wood treatment process on and off site. Poles, Inc. entered into an agreement with IDEQ to complete clean-up activities at the site.

BCEH, under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, conducted a public health assessment to evaluate any potential public health risks posed by site-related contamination as well as physical hazards at the Poles, Inc. site. BCEH determined that contamination exists, but does not pose a health risk for the general public. Physical hazards on the site do pose a health risk for the general public.

BCEH recommends that residents of Oldtown, especially children, avoid the Poles, Inc. site, the Oldtown Log Yard, and the railroad. Children playing on or walking across this industrial area could be seriously injured by stacked logs, heavy equipment, clean up activities, or rail cars. Trespassing on the Poles, Inc. site during clean up activities could lead to exposure to site-related contamination. BCEH urges parents to instruct their children to stay away from the Poles, Inc. site

Important Points

- ❖ **The industrial area around the Poles, Inc. site is not a safe place to play.**
- ❖ **Children may be hurt by large equipment, logs, clean-up activities, and rail cars.**
- ❖ **Children should walk around the site.**

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